

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended) : A mud flap holder assembly for use with motor vehicles, said mud flap holder assembly for holding a mud flap having a top portion and at least one flap securement member extending through the top portion and projecting from opposed sides of the top portion, said mud flap holder assembly comprising in combination:

a support member attachable to a motor vehicle; and at least one mud flap support clip connected to said support member, said at least one mud flap support clip having two clip segments extending downwardly from said support member, said clip segments having distal ends and bifurcated end portions with distal ends and forming slots open at lower ends thereof and extending upwardly from said distal ends, and said clip segments disposed side-by-side defining a space therebetween in communication with said slots for receiving the top portion of a the mud flap with said clip segments disposed at opposed sides of the top portion and with the at least one flap securement member positioned in the slots thereof at a predetermined location and extending between and through said bifurcated end portions across the space, said slots being of variable width and said bifurcated portions converging below said narrowing below said predetermined location and forming a detent, with said bifurcated end portions forming detents below said predetermined location for

frictionally engaging and supporting said at least one flap  
securement member extending across said space, at least one of  
said bifurcated end portions being flexible whereby a downward  
pulling force applied to the mud flap will cause flexing of the  
~~flexible at least one bifurcated end portion portions by said at~~  
least one flap securement member and release of the mud flap in  
its entirety from the mud flap holder assembly and passage of  
said at least one flap securement member out of said space and  
out of the slots through the openings at the lower ends of the  
slots.

2 (previously presented): The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 including a plurality of spaced mud flap support clips.

3 (previously presented): The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one mud flap support clip is of integral construction and formed of sheet metal.

4 (previously presented): The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said support member is an elongated bar.

5 (previously presented): The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the configurations of the slots in the clip segments are substantially the same.

6 (currently amended): A mud flap support clip of unitary construction including a central clip portion and two

clip segments extending downwardly from said central clip portion and disposed side by side to define a space therebetween for receiving the top portion of a mud flap, each of said clip segments having a bifurcated clip end portions portion with a distal end and defining an open-ended, an upwardly extending, variable width slot communicating with said space and open at a lower end thereof for receiving a mud flap securement bolt member having a shaft of predetermined diameter at a predetermined slot location, said slot narrowing below said predetermined slot location whereby the bifurcated clip end portions are spaced apart a distant to a width less than the predetermined diameter of said flap securement bolt and the shaft of said mud flap securement member, with said bifurcated end portions will portion forming a detent below said predetermined slot location to frictionally engage and releasably support said shaft of said mud flap securement bolt member, said bifurcated end portions of said clip segments being flexible whereby a downward pulling force applied to a mud flap supported by the mud flap support clip will cause flexing of the bifurcated end portions by said mud flap securement member and release of the mud flap in its entirety from the mud flap support clip and passage of said shaft out of said space and out of the slots through the openings at the lower ends thereof.

7 (previously presented) : The mud flap support clip according to Claim 6 of integral construction and formed of sheet material.

8 (currently amended) : The mud flap support clip according to Claim 7 6 wherein said slots of the two clip segments are of substantially identical configuration and in substantial registry with one another.

9 - 12 (canceled)

13 (new) : In combination:

a mud flap having a top portion with a hole formed therein;

a support member attachable to a motor vehicle;  
at least one mud flap support clip connected to said support member having a bifurcated clip segment forming a variable width slot open at one end; and

a mud flap securement bolt passing through the hole in the top portion of said mud flap positioned in said slot and frictionally engaged by said bifurcated clip segment to releasably retain said mud flap securement bolt in said slot and attached to said mud flap support clip until a pulling force applied to said mud flap attains a predetermined magnitude sufficient to cause said mud flap support clip to release said

mud flap securement bolt and said mud flap, said mud flap securement bolt having a bolt head exerting compressive forces on said mud flap support clip and operable to resist pulling of said mud flap securement bolt away from said mud flap support clip.